

***Remarks***

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Claims 12-21, 26-32, 35-41, 46 and 48-71 are pending in the application, with claims 12, 19, 31, 40 and 46 being the independent claims.

Based on the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

***Obviousness-Type Double Patenting Rejection***

The Examiner has provisionally rejected claims 31-32, 39, 52 and 53 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-6 and 10 of copending Application No. 09/987,455 (US 2003/0049729). Office Action, Page 3. Applicants file herewith a terminal disclaimer to obviate a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection over copending Application No. 09/987,455. Thus, the rejection of claims 31-32, 39, 52 and 53 has been rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request respectfully request that the this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for allowing claims 12-21, 26-30 and 46. Office Action, Page 3.

The Examiner has objected to claims 35-41 and 48-71 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Office Action, Page 3. Applicants note that claim 40 is not a dependent claim, but an independent claim, from which claims 41 and 63-71 depend. The Examiner has withdrawn the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, of claims 12-22, 24, 26-44 and 48-53. Office Action, Page 2. Therefore, there are currently no pending rejections related to claims 40, 41 and 63-71.

Claims 35-39 and 48-62 depend from claim 31. As noted above, Applicants file herewith a terminal disclaimer rendering the rejection of claim 31 moot. Thus, the objection to claims 35-39 and 48-62 has also been rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that that the objection of claims 35-41 and 48-71 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

***Conclusion***

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Eric K. Steffe  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 36,688

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1100 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934  
(202) 371-2600